

# The Times Dispatch

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1913.

## PRESIDENT WILSON'S PHILIPPINES ANSWER.

The short section of his message President Wilson devotees to the Philippines is a policy answer to the critics of his policy respecting those possessions such as Dean C. Worcester, former Secretary of the Interior to the islands, and W. Cameron Forbes, the retiring Philippines Governor-General.

All it is timely and confounding tribute to that element, both within and without the Democratic party, who styling themselves anti-imperialists, clamor for precipitation in keeping our promise to give the Philippines independence—who would cultivate the suggestion that we do not intend to redeem that promise, and thus foreclose the issue.

The President's Philippines declaration is clear, conservative sincere, and rings in entire harmony with the pledge in the Baltimore platform. It emphasizes that pledges as to ultimate purpose, and its commitment to the means by which it was contemplated, attach thereto. The essence of the statement pronounced in Philippines independence as soon as the people shall have demonstrated their fitness for self-government, and neutralization of the islands can be insured in treaties with other nations. Full insurance of independence in the end is unqualifiedly written in the letter and the spirit of the pledge. By no possible construction, however, could there be read into it any pledge of indicating that assurance per salutem.

On the contrary, there is distinct recognition that the way must be long and slow—that the evolution to conditions in which "full" Philippine self-government can be expected or hoped for must be through experimental advances, tests and experience. President Wilson thus interprets the Baltimore declaration, when following the statement that, acting under the authority conferred upon him by Congress, he "has already accorded the people of the islands a majority of both houses of their legislature," he says:

"I believe that in this way we shall make proof of their capacity to control and their sense of responsibility in the exercise of political power and that the success of this step will be sure to clear our view for the steps which are to follow. Step by step we should extend and perfect the system of self-government in the islands, making test of them and modifying them as experience discloses their success and their failures."

This policy is absolutely consistent with the party's pledge of independence, its denunciation of imperialism and colonial exploitation of the Philippines, and the nation's duty to itself to the Philippines to civilization and to humanity.

To all of these the policy of non-enlargement of responsibility, distrust, standstill and College peace, espoused by Abingdon, the Worcester and Forbeses advocate is utterly repugnant. The policy championed by President Wilson's critics whom he so completely disarms—against whom, in fact, he turns their own weapons—is a policy calculated to excite suspicion as to our good faith and malice for obstructing preparation and equipment for the duties of self-government, pursued to its legitimate conclusion, it involves the possibility of defeating independence, our honesty of purpose being less, by rendering imperialism a "necessity" for the protection of individually developed colonial interests.

It used to be the gospel that laid the golden egg, but now it's the hen.

—Marquis of Piedmont a grandfather—says the New York Times. How many backs did he lay in the field?

Sister, ride out dinner early this heavenly moonlight, separate, hurry from his coil, and pursue punctually your Yuletide purchasing.

Despite the fact that the Mexican unpleasantness has thrown us into the throes of pronunciamento, a new foreign minister by the name of Tavares Barros Karavayaggio has had the audacity to come to this country.

King George of Great Britain celebrated his mother's birthday by taking her to a noisy restaurant. Some of the pictures were of London and the down cobblestones can prove he any boy in Richmond that it was truly royal treat.

Mrs. Dasha Breckinridge, of Kentucky, granddaughter of Henry Clay of Hanover County, Virginia, in castigating suffrage before a congressional committee this week, said that the women of Kentucky are generally classed "poetically with whisky and horses, and politically with Indians and criminals." Properly, however, with the queens and angels or the women of Virginia, if you want to put that way.

With Mrs. Parkhurst the odd words of tonus or pen are "affectionate" and "affectionate."

Dally hint to housewives—The popular magazines make excellent fuel.

## THE POOR MAN'S HOUSE.

Tenement Commissioner Murphy, of New York, believes that the poor man's house is his greatest problem, not only because it is hard to find, but because the rent eats up a far larger percentage of his earnings than is the case with the man of better circumstances.

We have witnessed the same thing in Richmond, and can attest the accuracy of Mr. Murphy's statement. Our street-car conductors, for instance, do not average more than \$65 a month, yet they often pay \$15 the month in rent; laborers who make but \$1.50 to \$1.75 the day, sometimes rent houses at \$12 the month; scores of our colored citizens lay down monthly a third of their income in rent.

Where the outlay for rent is greater than 15 per cent of a family's income, the household must either economize in other directions or run into debt. The wage-earner must either stint his family's provisions, clothe them poorly, take in lodgers or give himself over to the loan-sharks. From exorbitant rents this results overcrowding, with consequent insanitary and immorality or financial ruin.

To reduce rents a number of expedients have been proposed, all of which were discussed by Mr. Murphy in a recent address. The plan of public buildings, he declared, does not operate successfully or seem to relieve the cases of greatest need. He might indeed have added that so paternalistic a move could but pauperize those it sought to benefit.

The proposal to give the working-man cheap rents by extending the corporate limits of the congested cities was dismissed by Mr. Murphy with faint praise. It has been the experience of many cities, he explained, that land-values are lowered by incorporation of cities. We are using a system of procedure which England, from whom we got it originally, abandoned fifty years ago. Our courts are forced to plod along with an arduous, discarded, patched-up machine, when a modern, and efficient model should be adopted.

"What would be the effect if the proposed reform is established?" legislators may ask. The lawyer would not have to expend numberless hours in wearying and altogether useless argument as to technicalities; he could prepare himself for and discuss only the merits of his cause. The man who goes to law and the man who is brought to law, would do so at far less expense, and their rights would be determined in far less time. The judge would not have to consider technicalities of procedure, nor spend his energies and patience in hearing arguments upon them; he would have more time to examine his authorities, ascertain the law and deliberate upon the facts before casting his decision. The Commonwealth would be served through increased popular content with its judicial system, and enlarged respect for the established order.

—SAVE THE MARKET.

The Administrative Board has acted wisely in deciding not to convert the meat market at Sixth and Marshall Streets into a bazaar. The members of the board can do still better if they will devote some of their time and energy to an effort to save the market.

The Times-Dispatch does not feel that our markets have been given proper attention in recent years. Designated as they are to afford the farmer a cheap market and to give the housekeeper food supplies at reasonable prices, the markets should be restored by the city and encouraged in every way possible. Instead, it has seemed to us that the marketmen have been subjected to unnecessary restrictions, and have been moved from place to place more to suit the whim of the Council than to serve any useful purpose.

In particular, the new vegetable market under the Blues' Armory, whether it has been suggested the meat market should be moved, has proved most unsatisfactory. Behind the blues' door, this market has languished. Many of its stalls are unoccupied and most of its tenants are doing little business.

Now that you have taken up the subject, gentlemen of the Administrative Board, will you not thresh it out thoroughly?

We understand that the reason so many of the prominent citizens of Houston, Texas, spend their days leaning up against the cranberry trees in that village is that they feel that if they sat down somewhere it would be too much trouble to get up again.

General Jose Ynez Salazar is in Chihuahua. We'll pin a rose on anybody that can pronounce that in Esperanto or English.

The present controversy as to whether a historian should be imported or domestic remains as of John Fox's day, about the venerable mountaineer who met me in the hills of the Cumberland. Asked if he had ever heard of George Washington, the ancient replied that he had, and that Washington was "famous." Asked a similar question as to Christopher Columbus, the ancient replied that he had, and that Columbus was "outstanding."

While the last-seller was yesterday we have no idea, but the best reader was Wilson's message.

In the old days the City Council of Richmond met just after dinner. If the men were up after supper, and the evening continuing, by-and-by it will meet just after breakfast.

They are still calling Boss Murphy the big chink in New York, but, considering the late municipal election, he must be the Swiss watch.

Readers of human interest items in the newspaper have been forced to publish her memoirs, but it's a safe bet that she'll say nothing about ex-King Manuel and his ex-sweetheart, Gladys Dealy.

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It seems like the greater a fellow is the worse his clothes are. Wed all like to vote for the best man, but he's never mixed up in politics.

## SPEED AND CHEAPEN JUSTICE.

Members of the next General Assembly of Virginia have no doubt received already many communications invoking their support in favor of various measures, but we venture the opinion that no one of them exceeds in importance that relating to the simplification of court procedure addressed to them by a select committee of the Virginia Bar Association.

We have witnessed the same thing in Richmond, and can attest the accuracy of Mr. Murphy's statement. Our street-car conductors, for instance, do not average more than \$65 a month, yet they often pay \$15 the month in rent; laborers who make but \$1.50 to \$1.75 the day, sometimes rent houses at \$12 the month; scores of our colored citizens lay down monthly a third of their income in rent.

The purpose of the movement initiated and unanimously endorsed by that body is to simplify, expedite and cheapen the procedure in the courts of the Commonwealth. The problem which the General Assembly can, by a mere stroke of its pen solve, demands immediate solution. It would benefit every litigant and assist every lawyer in Virginia's courts. The fact that the Virginia Bar Association, the congress of our lawyers, approved the proposed method of reforming judicial procedure without a dissenting voice, is significant for it is the first time, in the quarter of a century of that organization's existence, that any suggested procedural reform has been sealed with unanimity. As the committee in charge states in its letter to the legislators, the merit of the proposed system is such as to dispel all opposition to it, and the present status is so fraught with danger to the State that any change is desirable.

Our method of litigation in Virginia is complex, unscientific and difficult of piece-by-piece amendment. The machinery of our courts does not afford expeditious and economical administration of justice, but it opens the door to wily ways over technicalities, which may have to do with the real merits of cases. We are using a system of procedure which England, from whom we got it originally, abandoned fifty years ago. Our courts are forced to plod along with an arduous, discarded, patched-up machine, when a modern, and efficient model should be adopted.

"What would be the effect if the proposed reform is established?" legislators may ask. The lawyer would not have to expend numberless hours in wearying and altogether useless argument as to technicalities; he could prepare himself for and discuss only the merits of his cause. The man who goes to law and the man who is brought to law, would do so at far less expense, and their rights would be determined in far less time. The judge would not have to consider technicalities of procedure, nor spend his energies and patience in hearing arguments upon them; he would have more time to examine his authorities, ascertain the law and deliberate upon the facts before casting his decision. The Commonwealth would be served through increased popular content with its judicial system, and enlarged respect for the established order.

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## WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

### From the Army of Tennessee

The report was prevalent on the streets yesterday that the government received information that the siege of Knoxville had been abandoned by General Longstreet, and that his command was being withdrawn in the direction of Bristol. The Northern papers received last night state that our forces have withdrawn from Knoxville.

### From Northern Virginia.

Matters are quiet. Passengers by the Central train last night report that 200 prisoners captured during the early part of this week are en route to Richmond.

### General Morgan's Escape.

General Morgan has escaped from the Ohio authorities of that prison from Toronto that they need not put themselves to further trouble on his account. Colonel Dick Morgan (General Morgan's brother) and six captives were confined in the lower range of cells, and with him was the son of General Lee, and nine inches of length. Underneath the cell was an air chamber, running the whole length of the building. This was known to them. When once in the chamber, they dug through the earth to the outer wall near the entrance, and then through the hole they dug under the wall, and taking spikes and the aid of a timber, made a hole large enough to bring the man through. General Morgan was allowed to exchange cells with Dick, who every thing being prepared, permitted his brother to take his place. Some time during the night, the prisoners crawled through the hole they dug under the wall, and taking spikes and the aid of a timber, made a hole large enough to bring the man through. 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